

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 11-20 and 24-29 are allowed. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Claims 33-44 have been added. Claims 1-20 and 22-44 remain in the case for reconsideration. Reconsideration is requested. No new subject matter has been added.

Claims 5-10, 22, 23 and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5-10, 22, 23 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form as requested by the Examiner and are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102


Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Beigi et al. (US 6,363,056). Claims 21, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Gruber et al. (US 5,450,394). Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beigi et al. in view of Gruber et al.

The rejected claims have been amended to include limitations indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, claim 1- 4, 30 and 32 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 and 22-44 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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